

**2016 Proposed Timeline under HB 571 (red font=HB 571/ blue font=current law/not changed in HB 571)**

\*Montana's presidential primary is tied to the date of the state primary. Montana, along with New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota currently have the latest presidential primaries in the nation. Under this bill, Montana's presidential primary would be the last in the nation, and most likely would occur after the party conventions (scheduled for July and August in 2016).

ITEM	DEADLINE/DATE	NOTES	STATUTE
Primary/Presidential Primary	August 9		13-1-107(1)
County Canvass	August 14	Provisional and FWAB ballots would not yet be counted, so it's not clear from the bill how the county could canvass when all ballots are not yet counted.	13-15-401
Count Prov and FWAB ballots	August 16		13-15-107
Post-election audits	No sooner than August 18		13-17-506
Primary (county race)recounts	No later than August 24	Petition within 5 days of county canvass; recount held within 5 days of notification of recount	13-16-201 13-16-204
Certification of recount results	Immediately after recount		13-16-418
Candidate vacancy appt by parties	August 20	Would be 6 days <i>before</i> the deadline for a candidate to withdraw under this bill (see August 30 deadline), leaving no statutory direction for how parties could replace a candidate who withdraws after the primary since <b>the deadline to withdraw occurs after the deadline to appoint a replacement.</b>	13-10-327
Candidate withdrawal deadline	August 30		13-10-325
CPP deadline for notification of names not to appear on ballot	August 31		13-37-126
SOS certifies ballot	September 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>even though the state canvass may not have been held yet, or may not be finalized, the bill would require certification of the names of candidates to appear on the general election ballot</li> <li>If candidates can withdraw up to August 30, even if there was a mechanism for the parties to appoint replacement candidates, it would leave only 3-4 business days to make the appointment and get the paperwork submitted and for the SOS to get the name(s) on the correct ballots/precincts/splits.</li> </ul>	13-12-201
State Canvass	By Sept 5	Within 27 days of election	13-15-502

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Primary (state race) recounts	No later than Sept 15	Petition within 5 days of state canvass; recount held within 5 days of notification of recount	13-16-201 13-16-204
Canvass of recounted results	Immediately after recount		13-16-419
Ballots sent to military and overseas voters	No later than September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need minimum of <b>30 days</b> between ballot certification and when ballots are mailed to UOCAVA for ballot layout, proofing, printing, shipping – under the deadlines in HB 571, there are only 19 days.</li><li>• In the 2014 general election, there were <b>29 days</b> between ballot certification and the day ballots had to be sent to UOCAVA voters. The deadline was met, but required expedited shipping charges and some overnight mailings to get ballots to the counties in time.</li><li>• If there is a recount of a state contest, there could be only <b>8 days</b> between the recount and when ballots must be sent to military and overseas voters.</li></ul>	13-13-205
General Election	November 8		13-1-104(1)